

USSN: 10/527,767
Attorney Docket: I-2002.016 US
Response to Office Action of August 8, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original): A chicken astrovirus type 2 (CAstV-2), characterised in that the virus is the CAstV deposited under accession no. I-2932 at the Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (CNCM) of the Institute Pasteur, Paris, France or an immunological related CAstV that is able to induce antiserum that neutralises the deposited virus.

Claims 2 – 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended): A vaccine for use in the protection of poultry against disease caused by avian astrovirus infection, characterised in that the vaccine comprises a ~~CAstV-~~ CAstV-2 according to claim 1, together with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or diluent.
5. (Currently amended): The vaccine according to claim 4, characterised in the ~~CAstV-2~~ CAstV-2 is in a live attenuated form.
6. (Previously presented): The vaccine according to claims 4, characterised in that the vaccine further comprises one or more vaccine components of other pathogens infectious to poultry.

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7. (Previously presented): The vaccine according to claims 4-6, characterised in that the vaccine comprises an adjuvant.
8. (Currently amended): A method for the preparation of ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 antigen material, characterised in that the ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 according to claim 1 is propagated in a cell culture and subsequently harvested from the cell culture.
9. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of a vaccine according to claim 4, characterised in that the ~~CastV-2~~ CAstV-2 according to claim 1 is mixed with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent.
10. (Previously presented) A method for the protection of poultry, in particular chicken, against disease caused by avian astrovirus infection, characterised in that the vaccine according to claim 4 is administered to the animals.